

REMARKS

Status of the Application

By the present Amendment, claims 1-3, 18-19, 23-24 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Withdrawn claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 20, 21, 25, 26, and 30-35 have also been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 22 is the only claim pending in the application. Claim 22 is allowed. Claims 1-3, 18, 19, 23-24, and 29 stand rejected.

Formal Matters

The Examiner has considered all the references cited with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 19, 2010.

Applicant again respectfully reminds the Examiner that he has not provided a signed Form 1449 (SB08) for the IDS submitted on March 14, 2008. Applicant again respectfully requests that the Examiner kindly indicate that the IDS has been considered by providing a signed Form 1449 (SB08) with the next office action.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 22 is allowed. Since claim 22 is the only claim pending in the present application, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in a condition for immediate allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over US 6,369,627 to Tomita in view of JP 360030262 to Asano et al. (hereinafter "Asano").

Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tomita in view of Asano in view of US 6,762,957 to Hsu et al. (hereinafter "Hsu").

Claims 23 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Tomita in view of Asano in view of US 7,181,638 to Welker et al. (hereinafter "Welker").

Applicant respectfully traverses all of these rejections. Nevertheless, without conceding to the merits of the Examiner's rejections, all of the rejected claims 1-3, 18, 19, 23-24, and 29 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejections moot.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
/ Andrew J. Taska /

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